

COVID-19 READINESS, RESPONSE & RECOVERY CYCLE

March 2, 2022

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recognizes the importance of adjusting response actions and public recommendations as we cycle through periods of readiness, response, and recovery.

In addressing current impacts and working to prevent and respond to COVID-19, MDHHS bases decisions on current data and science and the following guiding principles:

- To prevent death and severe outcomes,
- To protect health care capacity, and
- To keep vital infrastructure functioning safely.

MDHHS will cycle through periods of readiness, response, and recovery to continue to address predicted impacts of COVID-19 across these guiding principles.

What is the COVID-19 Readiness–Response–Recovery Cycle?

Currently, the COVID-19 cycle can be broken down into three key phases:

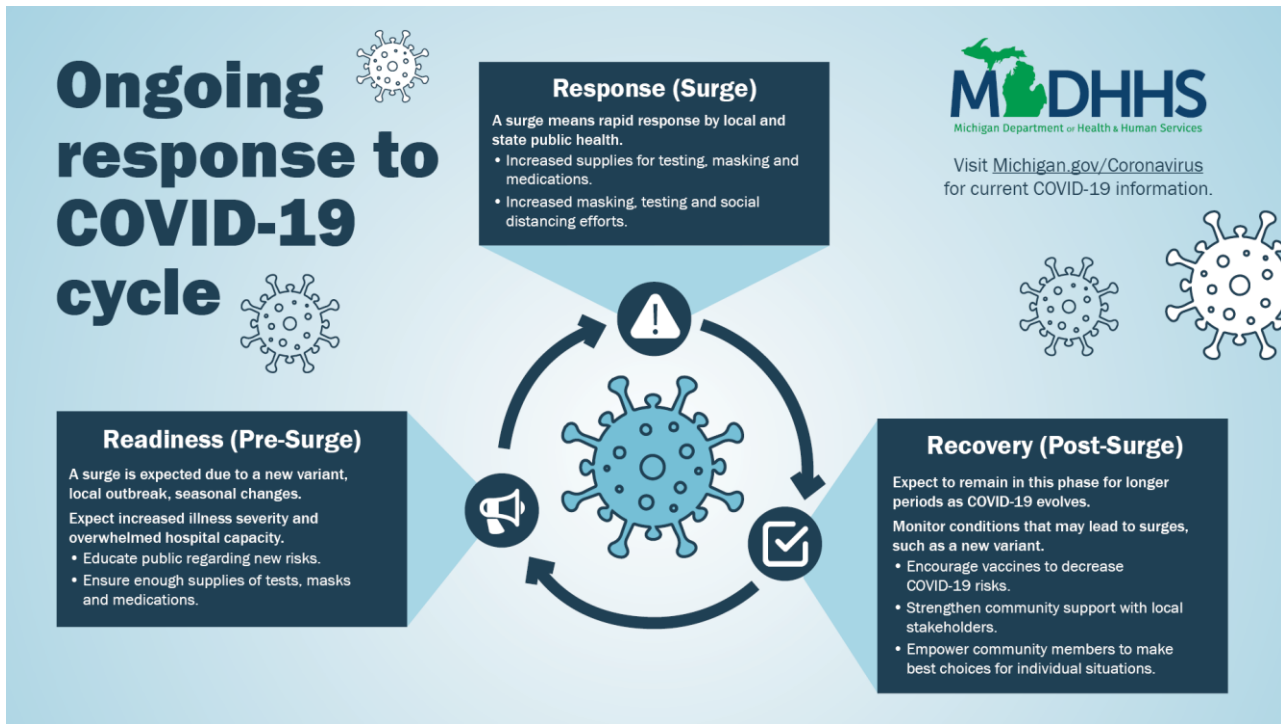
- **Readiness** – A surge in cases is expected, with implications on severity of illness and hospital capacity. Increased communication to the public regarding possible new risks.
- **Response** – Local and state public health implement rapid response to a surge. The public may be advised to increase masking, testing and social distancing.
- **Recovery** – Post-surge. No immediate resurgence predicted. Local and state public health will monitor conditions that could lead to future surges.

What metrics will be used to know where Michigan is in the cycle?

MDHHS will continue to monitor the transmission of COVID-19 closely to assess risk across the state and adjust as conditions change – such changes could include the presence of a new variant that increases the risk to the public, or an increased number of cases that strains the health care system.

CDC's COVID-19 [Community Levels](#) is one resource that monitors metrics to support state and local decision making and action when additional prevention measures are needed to reduce COVID-19 burden and increasing negative impact to vulnerable residents, health care systems, and/or critical infrastructure in Michigan.

View the [Ongoing response to COVID-19 cycle](#) graphic online.



The Readiness-Response-Recovery Cycle is an adaptation of an evidence-based [WHO framework](#) for infection prevention and control in outbreak preparedness, readiness, and response nationally. MDHHS has adapted this framework to provide a forward focused model for managing COVID-19 and continuing to support a healthy and resilient State.

Additionally, MDHHS continues to align with the [National Response Framework](#) which provides direction to help build a secure and resilient nation capable of recovering from threats and hazards.

If Michigan moves into a different phase of the cycle, how will I know?

The latest information about COVID-19 is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus. Should Michigan enter a new phase of the cycle, there will be notification to the public through state and local public health partners through a variety of platforms such as media release, social media and website communications.

Does this mean the pandemic is over?

The pandemic is not over but we are in a new phase. Although COVID-19 continues to circulate, we now have vaccines, tests, and treatments that work, and most Americans have some immunity from vaccines or past infection.

Living with COVID-19 will require us to use all we have learned over the past two years. This means using metrics and local community context to understand where we are at in the Readiness-Response-Recovery cycle and putting proven public health strategies in place when they are needed to prevent serious illness and death, stop our hospitals from being overwhelmed, and protect critical infrastructure. Our guidance will continue to change and adapt as we move through phases of recovery, readiness and response. Our goal is to provide the most current guidance to the Michigan public based on science and data, the phases of the pandemic response and the availability of tools to combat COVID-19.